



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,933	04/02/2004	Alexander Buhl	41653-201032	9442
26694	7590	12/27/2005		EXAMINER
VENABLE LLP				TAWFIK, SAMEH
P.O. BOX 34385			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20045-9998			3721	

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SIP

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/815,933	BUHL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sameh H. Tawfik	3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/07/2005 & 10/31/2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10072005.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 3 is improper depending from a canceled claim 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Slayter et al. (3,050,427).

Slayter discloses a method for producing a non-woven fiber composite for the manufacture of filters in the tobacco industry (column 2, lines 50-54; via “and many other uses”) the method comprising feeding separated fiber materials (Fig. 1; via fiber separated fiber material 34) to a fluidized bed (Fig. 1; via suction box 31 and chain 29), note that by using the suction box to attract and suck the fibers toward the conveyor in that case more force applied to the fibers other than the gravity force; transporting the separated fiber material to a suction conveyor (via conveyor 29 and suction box 31) essentially by a transport air flow flowing in the fluidized bed in the direction of the rod-forming device (Figs. 1 and 2; via air flow through the upper opening of 23 by hopper 24 and roller 21 toward the suction box 31, which make the air

flow flowing in the direction of the rod forming device), and compiling the fiber material on the rod-forming device (via by roll 32 and chain 41).

Regarding claim 3: further comprising providing fibers of different compositions (Fig. 1; via by spraying bonds 39 would effect the fibers composition and by un-equally spraying the bond 39, that will make the fibers of different compositions).

Regarding claim 4: wherein the fibers (34) in the fluidized bed (via 29 and 31) further comprises at least one additive (via binder 39).

Regarding claim 5: wherein the separated fibers (34) have a length from about 2 to about 100mm.

Regarding claim 6: wherein the average fiber diameter of the separated fibers (34) is in the range of from about 10 to about 40 μ m.

Regarding claim 7: wherein the average fiber diameter of the separated fibers (34) is in the range of from about 20 to about 38 μ m.

Regarding claim 11: successively feeding separated fiber materials (34) of differing composition (via by spraying bonds 39) to the fluidized bed (via 31 and 29).

Regarding claim 12: wherein the feeding step further comprises the separating of fibers (Fig. 1; via by drum 26).

Regarding claim 13: further comprises forming a continuous fiber filter rod (Fig. 1; via 16) from the compiled fibers (13) and dividing the continuous rod (16) into individual filter sections (34).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slayter et al. (3,050,427).

Slayter does not disclose that the separated fibers are synthetic fibers. However, the examiner takes an official notices that using synthetic fibers is old, well known, and available in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Slayter's method for producing a non-woven fiber, by using a synthetic fibers, in order to easily shaping the filters to specific shape.

Regarding claim 9: Slayter discloses that the fiber (34) strength of the synthetic fibers is from about 1 to about 20 dtex.

Regarding claim 10: Slayter discloses that wherein the fiber strength of the synthetic fibers (34) is from about 2 to about 6 dtex.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is 571-272-4470. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Art Unit: 3721

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sameh H. Tawfik
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3721



ST.